

mory of the late Dr. Lloyd, Provost of Trinity College, to state that it was his anxious wish to found a school of Natural History in the University over which he presided, and that it was in immediate course of being carried into effect in the year 1837 when interrupted by his sudden death.

#### HABITS OF THE MANTIS.

In a letter from Herr Chr. Zimmerman in Rockingham in North Carolina to Dr. Erichson, editor of the 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte,' in which he quaintly retorts upon the latter for incredulity respecting some former statements of his relative to the food of *Mantis Carolina* consisting of amphibia, this fact is fully confirmed by the following additional observations:—Your report having come to hand last September, just the time when the *Mantides* begin to make their appearance, I had abundant opportunities of repeating my experiments. Instead of the little striped lizard (*Scincus 5-lineatus*) as heretofore, I made use of a species of newt (*Salamandra cirrhigera*, Holbri) equally active and more abundant. Its fate was as I anticipated. One newt after the other was seized, and to a greater or less extent devoured. In vain did they endeavour, by rapid contortions of the body and blows with the tail, to elude the grasp of the mantis, which, with the head depressed and the hinder part of the body tilted upwards, kept a firm hold of its victim, and ate until it could eat no more. I send you the very specimen of mantis with which these experiments were performed. Whenever a mantis seizes another insect or small animal, the anterior fang-like extremities are brought down to below the level of the head, so as to avoid having to sustain the weight of the prey.—A. T.

#### ETHNOLOGY.

A tract has been published by M. d'Omalius d'Halloy "*Sur les Races Humaines*," of which the following is the account given by the author when presenting it to the Academy of Sciences. He states that he had endeavoured to show, that in classing the modifications of the human race, the *natural characters*, such as form and colour, ought to take the precedence of language, historical filiation, and other *social* considerations. He then points out that the application of this principle leads him to remove the Hindoos and Abyssinians from the whites and to add them to the brown race, which thus becomes composed of three geographical groups, separated respectively by the Sea of Oman and the Gulf of Bengal. He concludes with remarking upon the constantly progressive development of the whiter varieties of the human race, whilst the coloured races, and also the least fair of the white race, are stationary or retrograde; whence it may be said, that notwithstanding the stability which now characterizes organic nature, there is yet in progress a phænomenon of a like kind with that which is revealed to us in the palæontological study of the terrestrial globe, which exhibits the successive appearance of species more and more perfect; fish having preceded